

# THE INTELLIGENCER

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1915

The more we look at the way the British nation is behaving in this war, the more we admire France.

Medical scientists have discovered that brown sugar is the best dressing for wounds. Most anybody's grandmother knew that.

This preparedness business is all right, but we hope congress will leave enough money in our pockets to buy tobacco with.

That patriotic line-up that President Wilson announced a short time ago doesn't seem to have started yet. Is it the sheep or the goats that are hanging back?

When "the Sick Man of Europe" fights the way he's been fighting at the Dardanelles we frankly admit that we'd a heap rather tackle a perfectly well Christian of most any nationality.

An Indiana woman, who was married to and divorced from the same man seven times, finally shot him the other day. She just couldn't bear the thought of marrying that man again.

When you come right down to it, the only Simon-pure non-hyphenates in the country are the Indians. Even the negroes have got into a pernicious habit in late years of calling themselves "Afro-Americans."

Porter Charlton, the American on trial for murder in Italy, can't complain that he isn't getting a fair trial according to American precedents in such cases. There's a typically American corps of alienists mobilized in the court room, and their testimony regarding Charlton's sanity is given impartially to both sides in the typically American way.

Now we are informed by an anti-suffrageist that the Roman Empire fell because women went into politics. Just the other day an English writer insisted that it fell because Rome abandoned military conscription in favor of voluntary service. Previously we had learned that Rome fell because its mosquitoes, because of the German, because of Christianity, because of absentee landlordism, and a dozen or two other causes. The one sure thing about Rome is that it fell. And what a lucky thing that was for modern moralists.

## RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP

There has just been organized in Russia a Society for Promoting Mutual Relations Between Russia and America. It has started giving friendly dinners to Americans in Petrograd. It is going to give lectures there for the benefit of those same Americans, and it expects to send lecturers to the United States to disseminate friendly information regarding Russia and the Russian people. One of the foremost leaders of the movement is Baron Rosen, formerly ambassador to this country.

This is all very well. We shall welcome missionaries to Russian culture, and lend an attentive ear to anything they may have to say, so long as they limit their efforts to praising what is praiseworthy in their own land and people, and do not attack or slander the nations with whom they happen to be at war. We have had enough of mutual recrimination by war partisans on our neutral soil.

We ought to know more about the Russians. Americans in general are ignorant of their abilities and virtues. We judge them by their worst representatives—the ignorant and bigoted peasants who vent their traditional grudges in "pogroms" against the Jews, and the underbables at the other extreme of the social scale who have made Russian aristocracy a synonym for corruption and injustice. And thus we misjudge a great people, of whom the aristocracy is merely the froth and the bigoted peasants the dregs.

We misjudge them all because we see so few native, representative Russians; we do not go to Russia, and the pure-blooded Russian seldom comes here. But from their literature and art, which are today as great as any in the world, and from occasional glimpses of sturdy and admirable qualities in the average Russian, we are coming to suspect that we have not grasped the soul of Russia.

If Russia, however, really wants to win our friendship and admiration, she can persuade us far more quickly by acts than by words. She should start by removing the causes that have turned us against her. Americans cannot be well disposed toward any nation that is characterized by political and religious tyranny.

Let the Russian government give its people freedom and genuine governmental representation. Let it remove the political disabilities of the Jews and discourage and suppress the popular outbreaks against them—which, but for government tolerance, would be no more significant than are our own occasional lynchings. Then we shall be ready to take Russia by the hand.

And perhaps, when we come to understand each other, we can learn from that great people—who are destined some day to be supreme in Europe—things just as valuable as anything we can teach them.

## ABANDONING CHILDREN

Since Mrs. Finley J. Shepherd, who was formerly Helen Gould, adopted a five-year-old waif from an orphan asylum, several hundred men and women have written and telegraphed claiming to be the boy's parents. It's hard to understand the point of view of those men and women.

If we may judge from their numbers and their readiness to claim parenthood in this case, the crime of abandonment must be amazingly prevalent, and must be held lightly by the criminals. Every such claim is an implied confession of a deed which all moral pariahs hold in abhorrence. It means the deliberate casting off of a helpless child by its father or mother, the surrender of it to the mercies of a society that is not merciful in such matters, the betrayal of their own flesh and blood either to early death through neglect or to a life made unhappy by the lack of a home, the absence of all family ties, the perpetual shadow of a dubious origin.

A brilliant American lawyer who began life as a founding and who rose to eminence in his profession, and then sank into comparative obscurity through alcoholic indulgence, was once heard to exclaim: "May you never know the bitterness of treating the winepress alone!" The burden of his isolation was what dragged him down. Every abandoned child that amounts to anything feels that deadly isolation. In any case, the offense of abandonment is looked upon by right-minded parents as unpardonable. And yet there are hundreds of men and women who have either abandoned little sons, or pretend that they have, and flout the disgrace of it for the doubtful advantage of claiming a sort of connection with rich and famous foster-parents.

It's a shameful thing for Americans

to contemplate. Child abandonment is common enough abroad, particularly in France and England, and the great author Jean Jacques Rousseau was not ashamed that he had abandoned his children in their infancy. But the United States has been supported to be pretty free from that sort of thing.

## MISDIRECTING LETTERS

The postmaster of Chicago is quoted as saying that 43 per cent of the mail handled by the Chicago post-office is not properly addressed, and that it costs about \$1,000,000 a year to correct the addresses and see that the letters get to their destination. Maybe that's an excessive estimate. But there's no doubt that the carelessness of the public is responsible for an immense amount of unnecessary work in the postoffice department; and an expenditure of many millions of dollars a year which might be put to a worthier purpose.

The man or woman who misdirects a letter through carelessness or laziness is in the same class with the one who gives a telephone number from an uncertain memory, instead of looking it up. It is harder on the postoffice, however, than it is on the telephone company. It may take days to clear up a dubious address. The delivery of one misdirected letter may take more time and trouble than a hundred letters addressed properly, but the department gets only the usual two cents for it. And of course, in supporting this public institution, the careful people pay for the expenses caused by the careless.

Wouldn't it be a good thing if the sender of a misdirected letter were made to pay something extra for the trouble he causes the postoffice?

## PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT

The Emporia (Kan.) Gazette, commenting on the fact that the people of Leavenworth are dissatisfied with their commission government and are thinking of returning to their old system, remarks:

"We don't blame them. If we lived in Leavenworth, we too would be dissatisfied with it. The commission form of government has failed in Leavenworth just as the council form failed, and just as any other form of government will fail in Leavenworth so long as that city is the kind of a beer-drinking, law-defying, hide-bound, party-minded town it is." A stream cannot rise higher than its source, adds the Gazette, and even a model plan of municipal government can't gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles.

It's a characteristic weakness of Americans to believe that an abstract political system is capable of running itself. The commission plan, because it has worked extremely well in many cities, has been taken by others as a panacea for municipal ills, adopted in a spasmodic reform and then left alone to run itself. They might as well expect a mental concept of a concrete-mixer operating in vacant space to grind out real concrete.

Good citizens can get better results out of a bad system than careless citizens can get out of a good system. The commission plan has certain conspicuous advantages; but with or without it, the chief essential is a spirit of civic responsibility that keeps citizens on the job.

## A FEDERAL INHERITANCE TAX

How are we going to raise the hundreds of millions required for creating an efficient army and navy?

Obviously unusual methods will be needed. The nation's income is already running behind its current expenses, and there is no prospect of breaking even while the war lasts. A few millions, of course, may be saved by economy of administration, and a few more millions may be saved out of the congressional pork barrel if legislators are sufficiently patriotic. The tariff might be re-adjusted to provide a larger income, though it is always hard to tell what a tariff will or will not produce. But if the plans of army and navy building are to be carried out on anywhere near the scale indicated in the administration's policy, it will be necessary to raise far more money than can be expected from all these sources together.

The Chicago Tribune remarks that direct taxation is inevitable, and suggests that the least objectionable form of direct taxation for such a purpose is the inheritance tax. "It is not easy to evade. It falls upon those who are most able to bear it. If it is sufficiently radical it will accomplish a general social reform as a check upon inordinate concentration of irresponsible wealth."

There is no doubt that the money could be raised in this way, and it is likely that that method would

arouse less opposition than any other device. Its efficacy has already been tested on a small scale in nearly all the states, although the federal government has not yet resorted to it.

In nearly every foreign country the inheritance tax plays an important part in paying national expenses. It is recognized that, aside from its economic value in breaking up huge fortunes, it appeals to certain weaknesses of human nature. It is easier for a man to pay taxes after his death, and it is easier for a citizen to give up part of an inheritance than to give up what he has made himself.

## "GENTLEWOMEN" IN BUSINESS

Ethel Barrymore, who is playing the part of "Emma McChesney," a business woman, was amused at the critic who said that Miss Barrymore herself was "too much a gentlewoman to interpret the part of a business woman." It seemed to her that the very quality of human sympathy which is characteristic of a true gentlewoman ought to help an actress who has it to understand and interpret the life of a business woman or any other type of woman.

It was a "gentleman and a scholar" who first stated the truth that there is nothing inherent in ditch digging which is demeaning to the educated man. No disgrace could come to him unless he failed to dig a better ditch than the man of less opportunity.

The "real lady" goes into her kitchen to assist or take the place of her maid, or she does all her own housework, and loses nothing of her gentleness thereby. The labor, however, lowly, is graced and dignified by this very gentleness. It is the "get-rich-quick lady," the woman with superficial standards of aristocracy who dares not wash her dishes lest she lose caste.

Miss Barrymore's own statement in regard to the business woman and the lady was:

"I've been working for a living ever since I started to grow up. I've been on the road longer than Emma McChesney. But I hope that hasn't anything to do with my being a lady. We may work for living, we may not all be buyers; we may be teachers, we may be manicurists, we may be stenographers. But let's don't any of us get the idea 'we aren't ladies.'"

Only a measure of thought and narrowness of soul are "ungentle." Whether a woman is in the business world, the factory, the drawing room, or the kitchen, has nothing to do with it.

## The Pendleton Farmers' Society.

It is hard to say whether the Pendleton, S. C., "Farmers' Society," whose hundredth anniversary of whose founding I had the pleasure of helping celebrate the other day, is most famous for its part in starting Clemson College or for the fact that it was the farmers' club of which South Carolina's greatest statesman, John C. Calhoun, was a member and for some time president.

Like Jefferson and Washington, Calhoun was intensely interested in agriculture, and contributed not a little to its progress in his section of South Carolina. He made a sort of hobby of Devon cattle, and was probably the first to bring this breed into South Carolina. It is said that he also introduced Bermuda grass for pasture; and nobody doubts now that its rightful use in pastures would have compensated a thousandfold for its unwelcome presence in our cultivated fields.—Progressive Farmer.

## A LINE o' DOPE

Weather Forecast—Fair Tuesday and Wednesday.

"I missed my Paramount service Monday," said Manager J. J. Trowbridge of The Anderson theatre yesterday, "but will have it on Tuesday. In place of the Paramount feature I put on four reels of pictures free Monday."

Mr. Phelp Sasseen, Advertising Manager of The Intelligencer, has been confined to his home since last Saturday evening with a severe cold. He was quite ill that night and Sunday and it was feared for a while that symptoms of pneumonia had developed. However, it now appears that the danger is past, and Mr. Sasseen hopes to be out again soon. This will be pleasant news to his many friends about the city.

The Wesley Philatheca class of St. John's Sunday school will give a turkey dinner in the vacant store room two doors above Tolly's furniture store Wednesday of this week.

The last quarterly meeting of the Oakwood Singing Convention was held Sunday at the Second Baptist church. The next meeting is to be

held in March of next year. Officers were elected at this meeting as: W. P. Stevenson, president; W. W. Hale, vice president, and R. L. Lee, secretary and treasurer.

Aviator Bud Carey, his manager and his mechanic, who is the owner of the biplane, left Anderson yesterday afternoon for Spartanburg, where Carey will fly at the Spartanburg County Fair the last of the week. The machine was knocked down at the hangar in North Anderson Sunday and shipped yesterday via express to Spartanburg.

Fines in the city police court Monday morning amounted to \$230. This amount is unusually large and the reason for the record sum is that one man was fined \$100 for selling whiskey. John Connor, a negro was caught with the goods on Quarry street Saturday night by two of the officers and was hauled into court. His fine was just exactly \$100.

Jesse Cochran, a negro, hit Shine Hunter another negro in the head with a brick Saturday night, the result being that Shine is in the hospital and Jesse is in the city lock-up. The charge in this case will probably be assault and battery with intent to kill. It is said that Hunter's condition is serious, and Cochran is being held awaiting developments.

The regular monthly meeting of the Anderson County Medical society will

be held at the Anderson County Hospital this afternoon at 2 o'clock. There are several papers to be read and the meeting promises to be one of the great interest.

The show at the Palmetto this week is a real good one. Yes, of course they are all good, but honestly, there is no kidding to this, it is a good show. There are several specialties, with a "yodeler" (one of those fellows who sings about, seventeen different ways all at the same time) who is very good. His acts are excellent and in the opening show he was recalled time after time by the audience. The comedian is good. There was only one real comedian and a black face artist in the bill for Monday. There are no fine voices in the whole crowd, but all of them sing well, meaning that their singing is pleasing to the ear, and not the painful kind. The whole crowd is dandy and are putting up a fine show for the week.

Destroyers Spread Smoke Screen. The new 1,000-ton destroyers of the United States navy are equipped with oil burners for producing a heavy cloud of smoke that drifts on the surface and serves to conceal an attack on the enemy or to screen a battle-ship fleet from attack. In the recent naval maneuvers off Narragansett Bay the enemy submarines were easily rendered ineffective by these destroyers, with their smoke screens. A full-page illustration in the November Popular Mechanics Magazine shows one of the destroyers, the "McDougal," engaged in this novel service.



Scene From the World's Funniest Farce, "A Fall of Sixes," Anderson Theatre, Tuesday, November 9th.